

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06974 161051Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 127773

O R 161018Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5908
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T AMMAN 6974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, US, FR
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER RAISES SALE OF ROLAND

REF: MAP AMMAN 2595

1. PRIME MINISTER CALLED AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER DATT CALL ON CHIEF OF STAFF (REFTEL). HE WAS VERY DISTURBED THAT US HAS PROCEEDED (ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN) TO AGREE WITH FRANCE THAT ONLY COUNTRY IN MIDDLE EAST RESERVED TO US AS SALES TERRITORY FOR ROLAND IS JORDAN.
2. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WITH ALL THAT JORDAN HAS JUST BEEN THROUGH WITH US ON HAWK IT LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE US IS TRYING TO PROTECT ISRAELI INTERESTS AT JORDAN'S EXPENSE BY SUBJECTING A PENDING JORDAN BUY OF ROLAND FROM FRANCE TO US CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WHERE ISRAELI LOBBY CAN WORK TO KILL OR RESTRICT SALE.
3. WE TOLD RIFAI WE HAD NO INFORMATION AT ALL ON THE ARRANGEMENT OR THE REASONS FOR IT. WE SURMISED ONLY THAT IS APPEARED THAT US WANTED TO RETAIN SOME COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ROLAND SALES AND SINCE JORDAN TRADITIONALLY BOUGHT ITS EQUIPMENT FROM US, US SALES TO JORDAN OF ROLAND MADE SENSE.
4. CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH WHAT PROBLEMS THIS PARTICULAR MOVE WILL CAUSE US HERE. JORDAN HAS ALREADY COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNDING ROLAND IN BUY FROM FRENCH. WE ARE ALSO DISTURBED

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THAT NO ONE APPARENTLY FELT THE DECISION WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH

POLITICALLY (AFTER THE WHOLE HAWK EPISODE) TO CONSULT US IN
ADVANCE OR EVEN TO INFORM US THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY REPLY FOR PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINING
WHAT DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED AND WHY AND AN INDICATION OF ANY
FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART FOR A RECONSIDERATION.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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